28 January 2015

Africa RISING monthly meeting minutes

Venue-Jegol meeting room

Time- 2:00PM-4:00 PM

Agendas

1. Institutional progress update
2. Preparation for the review and planning meeting
3. USAID commissioned external review – update , what we need to do
4. Africa RISING science day(proposing a date and who would like to present papers )
5. AOB

**Institutional progress update**

**CIP**

Finalized agreement and now compiling data for technical report submission

**ICARDA**

* Carried out activities as planned despite the ongoing budget issues
* Promising on the ground
* Most people have visited the work during the field day
* The food and forage legumes are in place and we started with lentils, chickpeas

**ICRAF**

* Data collection done
* Publication on Apple quality and gene requirement is submitted for review
* Training manual prepare for fruit
* Field work is also going on as planned

**ICRISAT**

* Harvesting field trials and collecting data except Sinana
* Fertilizer blending – we have been successful in engaging with the national level. A task force is now established to follow up what is to be done on the ground

**ILRI**

* Melkamu and his group prepared manual for forage utilization and trained farmers in Endamehoni, Sinana and Lemo
* Organized field days in all the sites with 600 participants
* The nutrition group did survey and 240 mothers and children under 5 were part of the survey .A manual is prepared and training will be organized
* We had a visit from Winscost University where by we shared what we do in Africa RISING project in the Ethiopian highlands
* There is a plan to organize a big final meeting
* We are waiting for the data on health from the different Africa RISING sites

**Preparation for the review and planning meeting**

* A two days annual review and planning meeting is planned for February 2016 to discuss progress and plan for phase two. There will be poster market place which all CGAIR partners will have the chance to present the key activities they did so far and the implication for phase two. A template will be circulated to make sure there is consistence across all the posters to be presented. Around 60 participants from Addis Ababa and the different partners at the regional woreda and site levels as well as representatives from IITA and IFPRI will take part in the meeting

**USAID commissioned external review – update, what we need to do**

* USAID has commissioned external evaluation team to evaluate the different projects. The Africa RISING project in the Ethiopian highlands will be evaluated in February 2016. As part of the evaluation the team will have a chance to talk to CGIAR partners, attend some parted of the annual review and planning meeting, visit sites and talk to farmers and local partners. The results of the evaluation team assessment will have a big contribution to the possibility of USAID to fund the second phase of the program and the projects.

**Africa RISING science day (proposing a date and who would like to present papers)**

Africa RISING science: we are planning to hold a one day Africa RISING science meeting to present key research findings from the project to the project team as well as to interested people. This topic was opened for discussion and participants agreed to do it by the end of March and for a day

**AOB**

At the end of the monthly meeting the team has organized a farewell party to Valentine Ghandi who will be leaving EthiopiaNext plan